

1907.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH,
CHELTENHAM RURAL
DISTRICT.

To the . . .

**Chairman and Councillors of
the Cheltenham Rural District
Council. . . .**

Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1907, on the health of your District, including with it the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and a summary of the work done to maintain a high standard of sanitary efficiency.

REPORT.

The year has not been marked by any great variation from the average, either in birth, death, or sickness rates. There has been a happy diminution in the number of cases of infectious diseases, necessitating isolation in Hospital. Outbreaks of infectious diseases peculiar to young people have been of a mild type, and beyond the inconvenience of closing the schools have produced no evil results.

Although the death-rate of 14·3, estimated on a population of 4,670 is somewhat above the average for the District, yet, contrasted with the average death-rate for the Rural Districts of England and Wales, it is satisfactory. The birth-rate 18·8 is slightly above

the average but is more than counterbalanced by a high infant mortality rate of 120·8.

The Zymotic death-rate has somewhat increased in spite of the low per-centage of infectious diseases, but a death-rate of 1 per 1,000 living at all ages from infectious diseases is not a matter of serious importance

No special sanitary work has been undertaken during the year, but the well-advised adoption of The Model Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk Shops will necessitate considerably more attention to the Dairy Farms than hitherto. The provisions "as to Buildings" will probably lead to some initial difficulties between landlords and tenants, difficulties easily adjusted. A greater trouble will probably arise in the proper water supply, and will not be so easily overcome.

The water supply in the greater portion of the District is from wells and springs, both alike variable in quantity and quality, and at all times subject to accidental pollution. Greater attention is being given to safeguard, as far as possible, the water supplies, but much still remains to be desired. The water supplies under the control of the Sanitary Authorities have been good and sufficient during the year.

Building still continues in the more suburban portions of the District. Where blocks of cottages and small houses are being erected, troubles are arising from the impossibility of properly dealing with the quantity of fluid slops and sewage on the small amount of ground available in each case. In the near future costly multiplication of small sewage disposal works appears

to threaten. The irrigation and sewage disposal methods at Shurdington and Prestbury are satisfactory and are being properly supervised.

During the year some additional Acts of Parliament have been passed bearing on Public Health Legislation. These are likely to be of importance, more particularly in Urban than Rural Districts. They are The Employment of Women Act 1907; Factory & Workshop Act 1907; Vaccination Act 1907; Notification of Births Act 1907; and Public Health Acts Amendments Act 1907.

Other circulars and instructions from the Local Government Board have been received and noted, and where occasion demanded, have been acted upon.

In the latter part of the year a visit was paid to the District by a Local Government Board Inspector with regard to the sanitary requirements of the District and the advisability of a whole-time Inspector of Nuisances being appointed. The advice given was that a fully qualified whole-time Inspector was highly desirable.

As the Committee was averse to acting upon this it was stipulated that an Inspector should be appointed who was fully qualified and who should give the Council the first call on his services for such time as was deemed necessary for the proper performance of the sanitary work of the District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

SUMMARY.

Area of District in acres	...	18,401
Population in 1901 census	....	4,640
Inhabited dwellings census of 1901	....	1,034
Average number of persons per house		
1901 census	...	4.4
Average number of persons per acre		
1901 census	....	1 to 3½ acres
Estimated population to middle of 1907		4,670
Death-rate for 1907	...	14.3
Average death-rate for previous 10 years		12.1
Birth-rate for 1907	....	18.8
Average birth-rate for previous 10 years		21.2
Infant mortality rate for 1907 per		
1,000 births	...	120.8
Average infant mortality rate per 1,000		
births for previous 10 years	....	80.7

Population

The estimated population to the middle of 1907 is only slightly greater than the enumerated population of 1891. The decrease in the strictly rural population is barely balanced by the small increase in those areas adjoining the town which are becoming more suburban.

The actual natural increase of births over deaths is only 24 in the year. The estimated increase in population is only 5 in the year.

Births

Of the total births registered 4 were of illegitimate children. No statistics are available as to the parish distribution of the births. Fifty-three births were registered in the first half of the year, and 38 in the

latter half. Of the total 43 were male children and 48 female. All the illegitimate children were females.

Birth-rate

The birth-rate and the estimated population is 18·8, somewhat below the average of 21·2 for the previous ten years.

The birth-rate of illegitimate children was 4·5 % of the total births.

Infantile Mortality

Eleven children died under 1 year of age ; a proportion of 16·4 of the total deaths registered, giving an Infant mortality rate of 120·8 per 1,000 of births registered. Only one of these deaths occurred at birth, 9 of the remainder were from diseases of the respiratory organs. The Infant mortality rate compares unfavorably with the average for the last 10 years, and is actually higher than in the Urban District.

Deaths

The deaths of residents were in all 67. Of these 55 occurred within the District and 12 in Institutions outside the District.

The total was made up of 41 males and 26 females, only 1 death was due to accident and one to suicide.

Death-rate

The true death-rate, excluding deaths from violence is 13·9, and the death-rate from all causes is 14·3, being higher than the average of the last 10 years and slightly higher than the death-rate for the Urban District.

Age Incidence of Death

Ten of the deaths recorded were of old people over 80 years of age, 6 over 70, 13 over 60, 8 of 50 and upwards. The average age at death of the females was 60 years, and of the males 51 years.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATHS DURING YEAR 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Small Pox ..								
Measles ..								
Scarlet Fever ..								
Whooping Cough ..	3	I	2					
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	2		2					
Croup ..								
Enteric ..								
Epidemic Influenza ..	I					I		
Diarrhoea ..								
Enteritis ..								
Puerperal Fever ..	I					I		
Erysipelas ..								
Other Septic Diseases ..	I					I		
Phthisis ..	6					6		
Other Tubercular Diseases..								
Cancer—Malignant Disease..	10					7	3	
Bronchitis ..	5	3				I	I	
Pneumonia ..	5	4				I		
Pleurisy ..								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ..	I	I						
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ..								
Venereal Diseases ..								
Premature Birth ..								
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ..	I	I						
Heart Disease ..	7					2	5	
Accidents ..	I					I		
Suicides ..	I					I		
Cerebral ..	6					I	5	
All other causes ..	16	I	I	I	I	3	9	
ALL CAUSES ..	67	11	5	I	I	26	23	—

Cheltenham Rural.—For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	4895	102	20.8	8	88.3	56	11.8			11	67	13.6
1898	4945	102	20.6	8	78.4	57	11.5			12	67	13.5
1899	4995	129	25.8	14	108.0	46	9.3			11	56	11.2
1900	5045	108	21.4	10	92.0	57	10.0			5	55	10.9
1901	4640	106	22.8	6	56.6	62	13.3			5	66	14.2
1902	4645	125	26.9	15	120.0	54	10.5			8	60	12.9
1903	4650	88	18.9	5	56.8	54	11.6			4	58	12.4
1904	4655	86	18.4	5	58.1	34	7.3			4	38	8.5
1905	4660	87	18.6	6	68.9	51	10.9			6	57	12.2
1906	4665	87	18.6	7	80.4	47	10.0			11	58	12.4
Averages for years												
1897—	4779	102	21.2	8	80.7	51	10.6	—	—	7	58	12.1
1906												
1907	4670	91	18.8	11	120.8	55	11.7			12	67	14.3

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Cancer

Cancer claims an unfortunately large proportion of victims. Ten deaths were from this cause, at 47, 81, 51, 40, 67, 46, 71, 70, 40, and 56 years of age. Two other cases, though not specifically certified, were also probably due to the same cause. Two only of the cases came from the hill parishes. Cancer caused 14·9% of the total deaths in the District in the year, giving a mortality rate of 2·1 per 1,000 at all ages living.

Phthisis

The deaths of six individuals were caused by Phthisis, equal to 9% of the total deaths, and giving a mortality rate of 1·2 per 1,000 living. All 6 deaths occurred in the low-lying parishes.

Diseases of the
Respiratory
System

Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and other diseases of the respiratory system caused 11 deaths among very young or very old people. These deaths include those cases which Influenza was the primary cause. The mortality rate from diseases of the respiratory system amounts to 2·3 per 1,000 living.

Diseases of the
Vascular
System

Included in diseases of the vascular system are cases of cerebral hemorrhage, making a total of 13, with a mortality rate of 2·7 per 1,000 living.

Zymotic
Diseases

Three deaths occurred as the result of complications following Whooping Cough, and 2 were caused by Diphtheria. The Zymotic death-rate of ·9 is happily low.

Mumps, Measles, Whooping Cough, and German Measles have been somewhat prev-

alent. The Infant School at Prestbury was closed as were the Schools at Shurdington and Bentham.

Infectious
Diseases

Only 15 notifications of infectious maladies have been received. Five of these were of Diphtheria and 6 of Scarlet Fever. Of the remainder, one was a case of Typhoid Fever, one of Puerperal Fever, and 2 of Erysipelas. The cases occurred in isolated places without traceable cause. Four of the Diphtheria were treated in Hospital, where two died. All but one of the Scarlet Fever cases were isolated in Hospital.

Vaccination

Bad as it is, a somewhat better protection is secured by Vaccination against Small Pox than the existing state of the law might lead one to expect. 89 births were registered. 52 children were successfully vaccinated. 20% of those registered had conscientious objections raised on their behalf. 5 died unvaccinated.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1907.

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.										No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.												
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.					Cowley	Badgeworth	Leckhampton	Prestbury	Staverton	Swindon	Up-Hatherley	Shurdington	Cubberley	Uckington	Great Witcomb	Badgeworth	Cowley	Leckhampton	Prestbury	Staverton	Swindon	Up-Hatherley	Great Witcomb	Shurdington	Uckington	TOTAL	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65																							65 and upwards
Small Pox	...																												
Cholera	...																												
Diphtheria including MembranousCroup	5		2	2	1		1		2	1	1										2	1	1						4
Erysipelas	...					1	1		1																				
Scarlet Fever	...	6		4	2		3	2				1								2	1							4	
Typhus Fever	...																												
Enteric Fever	...	1			1				1																				
Relapsing & continued Fever																													
Puerperal Fever...	1					1																							
Measles	...																												
TOTALS	...	15	2	6	4	2	1	4	1	3	4	1	1	1					2	1	2	1	1	1				8	

Badgeworth

An Agricultural parish of 3,337 acres, lying in the valley on more or less clay soil, has the bulk of its population distributed in

Badgeworth Village	....	260
The Reddings	...	250
Little Witcomb	...	56
Crickley Hill	...	52
Bentham	....	48
Banfurlong	....	40

The remainder in outlying farms and cottages, making a total of 838 persons distributed in 198 inhabited dwellings.

The sewage disposal is by cesspools, midden-privies, and in some parts of the parish, water closets. The water supply in Badgeworth village and The Reddings is by Public Water Supply ; elsewhere by shallow wells.

The deaths of residents amounted in all to 13, giving a death-rate for the parish of 15·6 per 1,000.

Included in the deaths were 2 of Cancer and 1 of Puerperal Fever. One infant succumbed to Whooping Cough.

Cowley

Cowley, one of the hill parishes, has an acreage of 1,898, with a population of 269 souls ; 110 in Cowley village, 125 in part of Birdlip, the remainder at Stockwell and outlying homesteads. The number of inhabited houses is 65. These are furnished with cesspools, midden-privies, and are dependent for their water supply on shallow wells or springs, with the exception of a part of Birdlip which has a Public Water Supply.

The death occurred of only one resident and was registered outside the District.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Diphtheria were notified from the parish.

Cobberley

Cobberley, another of the hill parishes, has a population of 269 with an acreage of 3,639. The population is distributed in 75 houses. In Cobberley village 213, Ullenwood 20, Seven Springs 20, Salterley 10, Upper Cobberley 8, with 52 in scattered farms. The water supply is entirely by wells and springs, and the sewage disposal is by cess-pools, midden-privies, and some W.C.'s in the village itself.

Deaths of 3 infants under 1 year were registered in the village. Of the total of 7 deaths, 2 were from Cancer.

Great Witcombe

Great Witcombe, partly on the top and partly on the slope of the hill, has a small extent of 942 acres, with a population of 126 in 28 inhabited houses. There are water-closets, but the cesspools and midden-privies preponderate. The water supply is from wells and springs and from the Birdlip water supply.

One resident lost his life from accident.

Leckhampton

Leckhampton is largely suburban, adjoining the Borough and on the rising ground towards the hill. It has an extent of 1,289 acres. The population of 358 occupies 74 houses. The bulk of the population is in the village 282. Those in the portion known

as Leckhampton Hill number 52. The lower portion of the parish is sewered by main drainage, and also has a public water supply. The rest of the parish has midden-privies, and cesspools, and is furnished with water from wells and springs.

There were but 3 deaths. Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred.

Prestbury

Prestbury, the most populous and important of the parishes in the District, is a somewhat scattered parish of 1,393 acres, mainly in the low-lying ground, at the foot of the hills.

In the village there are 892 persons, and at Marle Hill 109. The other populated places are Prestbury Road 80, Swindon Lane 60, Noverton 28, Coronation Road 40, Oakland Avenue 50, Shaw Green and New Barn Lane. The total population is 1,393, and the number of inhabited houses 305. The drainage is partly by sewers with water-closets, partly by midden-privies and cesspools. The water supply in the village and suburban parts is from the Public Water Supply, elsewhere by wells and springs.

The deaths, including 3 from Phthisis and 5 from Cancer, totalled 25, giving a death-rate of 17.9 per 1,000 living.

Two cases of Diphtheria, one of which was fatal, and one case of Typhoid were notified.

Shurdington

Shurdington is an Agricultural parish of 1,068 acres, having a population of 447 living

in 94 separate dwellings. The village itself is responsible for 362 inhabitants, Little Shurdington for 40. There is no Public Water Supply beyond a pump and well, the cottages and farms each having its own well.

Some part is sewerred, the sewage irrigation field being in the parish. The out-lying houses have cesspools and midden-privies. Water-closets in the village only.

There were 4 deaths, one an infant under 1 from Pneumonia and one young child from Whooping Cough. Of the adults one died of Cancer, the other of Phthisis.

Staverton

Staverton Parish lies entirely in the valley on clay soil, and has an acreage of 1,022. The population is 413—313 in the village, 20 at Staverton Bridge, and 80 in the Golden Valley. In all there are 89 inhabited houses. Some part of the village is drained by main-drainage which carries away slop water only. Sewage is disposed of in cesspools and midden-privies, with a few W.C.'s.

The water supply is entirely by wells.

There were 4 deaths only, giving a lower death-rate than usual of 9·6 per 1,000.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in the village.

Swindon

Swindon, a small parish of 730 acres with 57 inhabited houses. Of a population of 233 the bulk, 203, lives in the village itself. There is a Public Water Supply from a well

and pump, but private wells are principally depended on for water supplies. Sewage disposal is by W.C.'s, midden-privies and cesspools.

A fatal case of Diphtheria occurred, and among the 6 deaths 1 was from Whooping Cough.

Uckington

Uckington, a small parish in the valley, has an acreage of 884, with a population of 124 people. There are only 33 houses, all of which are supplied with water from wells. There are standpipes supplying water from the Urban Water Supply. Cesspools and midden-privies are the means adopted for sewage disposal.

Of the 2 deaths 1 was from Phthisis.

Up-Hatherley

Up-Hatherley, with 22 houses and 113 inhabitants, has an acreage of 538. Up-Hatherley is the smallest parish in the District. Only one death occurred, and was registered outside the District.

Some of the parish is drained to the main drainage system, and has a Public Water Supply. The rest is provided for in the usual way.

Bakehouses

These in the different parishes have been inspected. In some, structural alterations have been found necessary.

Water Analyses

Many analyses have been made. Water from some wells found to be unsafe has been discarded for domestic purposes, and a permanent supply from the mains substituted.

Inspector's Report

The past year has been a less busy one than its predecessor, and the number of infectious cases has been smaller.

A sewer in Staverton parish has been relaid with very satisfactory results, and this is the largest and most important public piece of work in the District during the past year.

The sewage disposal works, both for Prestbury and Shurdington are working satisfactorily, and are in good order.

The usual routine work has been carried on as usual. Little difficulty is found in getting nuisances abated, and in no case have legal proceedings had to be resorted to.

Fewer houses have been built or added to than during the year before last, and there does not at present seem to be much prospect of many building operations at present.

The chief need of this District as in many other country places is, in my opinion, better water supplies, especially in the vale portion. These supplies should, I consider, be planned with a view of supplying considerable areas, and not being confined to individual parishes.

Eight cases of insufficient or defective drainage have been rectified.

14 Dairies and Cowsheds have been visited and reported on.

6 School Premises have been inspected.

Drains have been tested in all cases before connection to sewers, and where nuisances have arisen.

Nuisances have been reported and in most cases abated in connection with—

Cesspits 8.

Wells 4.

Pigstyes 9.

Fouling of Water Courses 4.

Fouling of Roadside Ditches 12.

W.C.'s 6.

Drainage and Paving of Stable, &c. 4

Sinks and Slop Water Gullies 10.

Dirty and Dilapidated Houses 5.

Overcrowding 4

Disinfection after infectious disease 8

Refuse Heaps and Ashpits 6

I have the honor to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. JOHNS, M.D., D.P.H.

